

CHAPTER XI TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES

CONTRACTS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

A library board may contract to provide or receive library service from a township.

The contract for library service between the public library and the township must outline the manner and extent of service and the amount of compensation for the extension of library service.

The township receiving service shall:

1. Levy a tax sufficient to meet the amount of compensation agreed upon under the contract; and,
2. Expend all funds received under the contract for library services chargeable to the contract. IC 20-14-3-6

The following sections pertain to libraries created under the Public Library Law of 1947 as amended.

PROPOSAL OF EXPANSION - REQUISITES - FILING

The library board of any public library may file a proposed expansion with the township trustee and township board of the township. The proposal must state that the public library seeks to combine with a certain township or any part of a township not being taxed for public library service in order to form a single town-township library district. IC 20-14-5-2

AGREEMENT TO EXPAND - PETITION - PROCEDURE

When the township trustee and township board receive the proposal of expansion, they may agree to the expansion. If the library board presents the township trustee and township board with a petition for acceptance of the proposal of expansion, signed by twenty percent (20%) of the registered voters of the township or part of the township, as determined by the last preceding general election, the township trustee and township board shall agree by written resolution if the signatures have been certified under IC 20-14-5-3(b). Within ten (10) days after the filing, the township trustee shall publish notice of the petition for acceptance of the proposal of expansion in a newspaper of general circulation in the township. IC 20-14-5-3

REMONSTRANCE - REQUISITES - EXPANSION

Within ten (10) days after the publication of notice, any registered voter may file with the township trustee and township board a remonstrance against the acceptance of the proposal of expansion. The remonstrance must state that the registered voters who have signed are in opposition to the expansion, and it must be signed by registered voters of the township or portion of the township who oppose the expansion. IC 20-14-5-4

PROCEDURE FOR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF PETITION - EXPANSION

At least ten (10) days after the publication of the petition, the township board shall consider the petition and the remonstrance. If a greater number of voters have signed the petition than have signed the remonstrance, the township board shall agree to, by written resolution, the expansion. Within five (5) days after the agreement to expand, the township board shall file a copy of the proposal of expansion and their acceptance of the expansion: (1) in the office of the county recorder in the county where the administrative office of the public library is located; and (2) with the Indiana State Library. The expansion is effective as of the date the proposal of expansion and the acceptance are filed.

If the township board determines that an equal or greater number of registered voters have signed a remonstrance against the expansion than the number who have signed the petition in favor of the expansion, then the legislative body shall dismiss the petition. Another petition for expansion may not be initiated until one (1) year after the date the legislative body dismissed the latest unsuccessful petition.

TOWNSHIP CONTRACTING WITH COUNTY CONTRACTUAL LIBRARIES - TAX LEVIES

When a township, or part of a township, is contracting with a library that is extending service through a county contractual library, then the township or part of a township; (1) shall cease to levy a separate tax for library purposes; and (2) becomes a part of the county contractual library district.

The tax levy for county contractual library purposes shall then be levied in the township or part of a township that has become part of the county contractual library district.

Any township that ceases to levy a tax for public library purposes in any year becomes a part of its county library district or county contractual library district, if either library district exists at the time the township levy is discontinued. The county library or county contractual library tax shall then be levied in the township. IC 20-14-6-7

IC 20-14-5.1 provides detail procedures concerning expansion of Class 1 Public Libraries into more than one township in a county.

TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES - ESTABLISHMENT

The legislative body of a township which is not already taxed for library purposes and that has a population of at least ten thousand (10,000) or an assessed valuation that is at least as high as the median of the most recent certified assessed valuation of the ten (10) library taxing districts closest in population to ten thousand (10,000) may establish a public library for residents of that township. The establishment of a public library may be initiated by either the legislative body passing the resolution; or the filing of a petition by at least twenty percent (20%) of the registered voters with certain requirements. IC 20-14-2-3